IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for determining ~~the~~ a position of ~~the~~ a rotor in an electric motor comprising the following acts:

detecting ~~the times~~ when the rotor passes through a reference position;

adapting ~~the~~ a period of a tunable oscillator so that passages of the rotor through the reference position ~~passages~~ occur at a predetermined phase of the oscillator; and

deriving ~~the~~ a rotor position between the reference position passages from ~~the~~ oscillation of the oscillator, wherein ~~the~~ a time duration between two reference position passages is measured and a time is derived from this time duration, ~~is~~ the derived time being predetermined as the period of the oscillator, ~~and that~~ wherein the rotor has n pole pairs and the reference position in each corresponds to ~~the~~ passage of a pole of each pole pair at a detector and ~~that~~ wherein ~~the~~ derivation of the time ~~predefined as the period of the oscillator~~ comprises ~~a step~~ an act of averaging ~~over~~ time durations determined from ~~respectively~~ n successive reference position passages.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein on each passage of the rotor through the reference position, the phase of the oscillator is detected and the tuning frequency of the oscillator is corrected using the detected ~~deviation~~ phase.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein for each passage of the rotor through the reference position, the time which has elapsed since the previous passage is determined, the difference between ~~this~~ the elapsed time ~~duration~~ and a time duration determined for the previous passage is calculated and the time derived as the oscillator period is corrected by adding ~~hereto~~ thereto the difference weighted by a positive factor.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the factor is between 0.3 and 0.7.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ a time profile of supply voltages applied to ~~the~~ a plurality of phases of the motor is controlled using the derived rotor position.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the supply voltages are controlled according to a pattern consisting of a sequence of discrete states, which are repeated cyclically with ~~the~~ a detected period, ~~where~~ wherein switching from one of the states to the next takes place in each case at a predefined rotor position.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~it is used on a~~ the motor is of a household appliance~~, especially a washing machine~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A device for determining ~~the~~ a rotor position in an electric motor, comprising a detector disposed on the electric motor which is sensitive to ~~the~~ passage of the rotor through a reference position, and a phase-locking loop which can be synchronized to ~~the~~ an output signal of the detector, which delivers an output signal representative ~~for~~ of the position of the rotor, wherein the phase-locking loop comprises a tunable oscillator, a phase comparator for delivering a correction signal representative ~~for~~ of a phase difference between an output signal of the detector and an output signal of the

tunable oscillator, a low-pass filter for the correction signal, a time-measuring circuit for determining a period duration between two passages of the rotor through the reference position and a superposition circuit for superposing an output signal of the time-measuring circuit representative of the determined period duration and the low-pass-filtered correction signal to produce a tuning signal for the oscillator, ~~and that~~ wherein the time-measuring circuit comprises an average value circuit for forming ~~the~~ an average of ~~the~~ time intervals between n successive ~~passage~~ passages of the rotor through the reference position.

23. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 22, wherein the detector is arranged in the magnetic field of the rotor.

24. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 22, wherein the time-measuring circuit determines the time which has elapsed since the previous passage for each passage of the rotor through the reference position, calculates the difference between ~~this~~ the elapsed time ~~duration~~ and a time duration determined for the previous passage and corrects ~~the~~ a time derived as the oscillator period by adding ~~hereto~~ thereto the difference weighted by a positive factor.